

true friend, and has dedicated herself to principled service to the city and people of Rohnert Park. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF RANKING
MEMBER GREG WALDEN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and colleague, Ranking Member GREG WALDEN, as he begins a new chapter in his life.

For two decades, GREG served a community that he loved with his whole heart. He saw his constituents as more than the people who entrusted him with this job, but as family and friends who needed their voices heard in Washington.

It wasn't always easy. Long weeks away from family never are. But GREG kept taking those six hour flights from coast to coast because he loved the work and he was committed to the causes that brought him here in the first place.

And as he rose through the Energy and Commerce Committee, he grew close to both me and my husband, John.

There have certainly been a fair share of spirited debates over policies that we are both passionate about. But the moments spent agreeing on legislation that was signed into law and impacts our constituents today are the memories I'll always cherish.

Though we will miss GREG in 2123 Rayburn, we are all excited for what his future holds. Hope to see my friend again soon.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUSTUS
MURRAY AMMONS

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take pause and reflect on the life of Justus Murray Ammons.

Jud Ammons grew up on a farm in Western North Carolina, where sharecropping and plowing gardens shaped what he called his "country boy" work ethic. At N.C. State, he dabbled in his first entrepreneurial pursuits, including selling books, starting a laundry pickup business and working as an engineer for the State of North Carolina, all on top of college classes. He also met his wife, JoEllen and they were married in 1957 in Monroe, North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, Jud and JoEllen spent their early married years traveling the world while Jud served in the U.S. Air Force and then worked as department head with CP&L. In the mid-1960s, the Ammons settled in Raleigh, North Carolina where Jud founded Ammons Construction Company. As a real estate developer, Jud built, owned and operated major subdivisions, day care facilities, golf course communities, industrial parks, retirement communities and shopping centers from the mountains to the coast. He sincerely cared

about what he was doing and about the people he was building for, no matter the project.

Jud was a savvy businessman, although he claimed it was "common sense." Encouraged by seniors in his church Jud developed Springmoor Retirement Community in North Raleigh. The community is the cornerstone of Greystone and pioneered the concept of a planned urban development incorporating amenities that allow residents to live, work, play, worship and go to school in a cohesive community. In 2000, he wrote a book named for his life motto, "Don't Wish You Had, Be Glad You Did."

Decades ago, Jud coached basketball, soccer and football; more recently, he kept a list of grandchildren's sports and activities schedules in his back pocket, filling nights and weekends to the brim to make it to as many games, recitals and performances as possible.

Always driven by the desire to meet the needs of the people of Raleigh, Jud served in leadership on the Wake County Planning Commission, Raleigh Greenway Commission, Raleigh City Task Force and Raleigh Bicentennial Commission. He was president and board member of the Raleigh-Wake County Home Builders Association and director of the National Association of Home Builders. In 2011, he was inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame. He and JoEllen helped found Greystone Baptist Church, where he served as deacon, Sunday School teacher and trustee. He served on several legislative study commissions, as a member of the Raleigh volunteer fire department and as a trustee of Mars Hill College in his hometown. Jud also loved raising champion beagles and was inducted into the Brace Beagley Hall of Fame.

Jud was quick to tell a joke and a story, usually using his own dictionary of "Jud-isms." A respected developer and businessman, he believed in dreaming big, working hard, and taking risks. But most of all, he loved God and his family, including his late wife, JoEllen, their four children and their 13 grandchildren.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, Jud Ammons passed away this year on October 18, 2020. He was 85 years old. He will be missed by his friends, neighbors, family, and the entire community.

IN HONOR OF LARRY MOODY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Larry Moody as he concludes his service on the city council of East Palo Alto, and after 14 years of service to the community as both a trustee of the school district and councilmember.

Larry grew up in Hartford, Connecticut, and was the youngest of eight children. He was an enterprising young man rising early to deliver the Hartford Courant newspaper and later becoming student body president at his high school in both his junior and senior years. He lettered in three sports and captained the New England Championship Basketball Team. He matriculated to Trinity College, with a major in political science, and later joined the U.S. Air Force.

In 1993, he came to East Palo Alto and immersed himself in ministry and youth sports.

By 2006, as an established leader, he ran for the school board and was elected. He and other trustees immediately concluded that progress evaluations would include everyone, not just the students. That year, the district had the highest gain in achievement scores in its history. Larry also brought Menlo Park Presbyterian Church into the Ravenswood Education Foundation and contributions soared.

In 2012, he ran for the city council. The city is a diverse community in the heart of Silicon Valley filled with an extremely hard-working population. Median household income is about 50 percent of San Mateo County's. The city's tax base supports a police department, community development, public works and other activities but there is no formal parks and recreation department. Violence within the community needed to be curbed. Larry wanted his city to offer the kinds of safety and services routinely provided to residents of surrounding communities. Developing the tax base was critical.

To overcome a development moratorium, Councilman Moody spearheaded a critical effort to obtain water from two neighboring communities. To curb violence, he supported, among many efforts, community-based organizations to reach out to areas in town that were hotspots, a domestic violence program at the police department, and increasing the number and pay of the city's hard-pressed police force. Crime trended sharply downward. As the city became safer, major employers noticed. For example, Amazon established a large facility in the community, annually contributing nearly \$500,000 in property taxes to the city's general fund. Steady increases in all tax revenues meant that a dream of Larry's, summer youth programs, commenced. Youth development programs, including those through former President Obama's My Brother's Keeper program, are a high priority for Larry.

Housing remains a major challenge. As a councilmember, Larry supported the establishment of the local homeless shelter, Project WeHope, the creation of a recreational vehicle parking program, the development of hundreds of new units on city-owned lands and at the site of existing affordable housing. Some of these projects happened in part because he and his council colleagues insisted that Facebook contribute \$20 million to meet the community's needs.

When he learned that countywide money was available for senior housing, Larry led the city in securing those funds as a down payment on a project along University Avenue which was decades in the making. When \$80,000 was identified for housing renovation purposes, Larry and a local non-profit leader developed a program of weatherization of apartments for low-income residents.

As he often says, capital improvements are not sexy, but they are needed. While on the council, he strongly supported the creation of a pedestrian/bike bridge over Highway 101, linking west side residents to the city's grocery and shopping areas on the east side. New storm water pipes down Bay Road and new wells for drinking water began during his council service.

Larry Moody led other council members regionally as the President of the Peninsula Chapter of the League of California Cities, and served on the statewide organization's committee on parks and recreation. At my request,